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Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No. : 2576

For : SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE

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- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-15929 A, together with an English language of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0189860 A1. Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited beginning at page 5 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further bring to the attention of the Examiner the following documents.

- (1) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/597,650 to KASAHARA et al., which was filed on August 2, 2006;
- (2) U.S. Patent Application No. 11/568,470 to TAMURA et al., which was filed on October 30, 2006; and
- (3) U.S. Patent Application No. 11/568,564 to KASAHARA et al., which was filed on November 1, 2006.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent publication and patent applications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

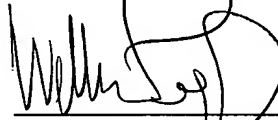
Also, when the above-noted pending applications are published, the Examiner is respectfully requested to list their publication numbers on a PTO 1449 Form (or PTO

892 Form) to confirm consideration thereof.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masahiro NAKANISHI et al.

  
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November 21, 2006  
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Application No.  
10/598,307

Group  
2576